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97

# INVINCIBLE



RAUCH

ROBERT KIRKMAN  
RYAN OTTLEY  
CLIFF RATHBURN  
JOHN RAUCH



**image** COMICS PRESENTS

# INVINCIBLE

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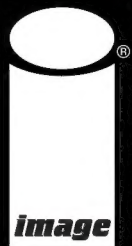
LETTERER

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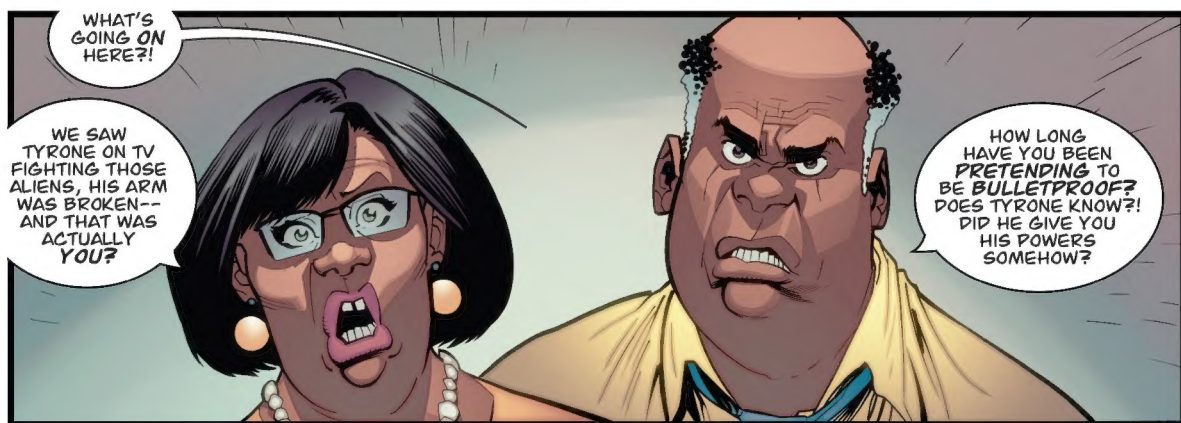
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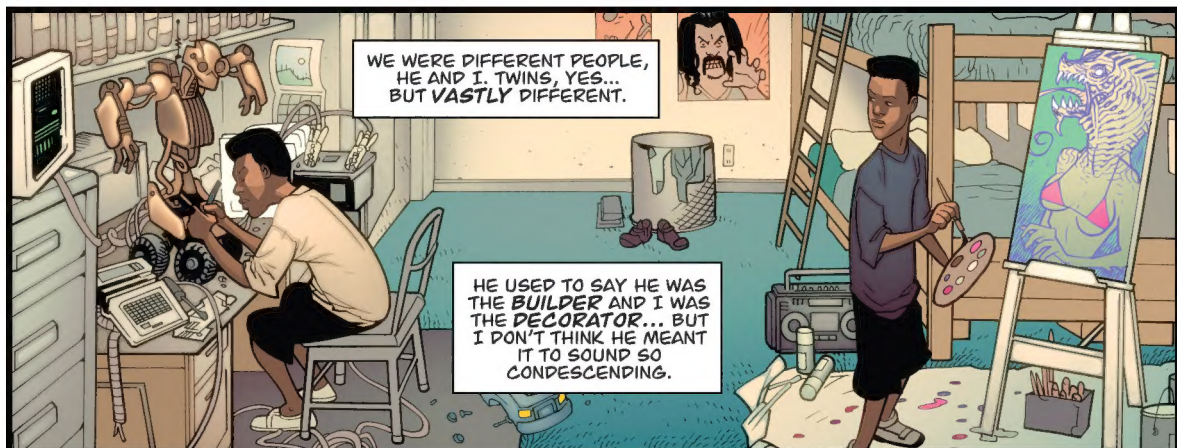






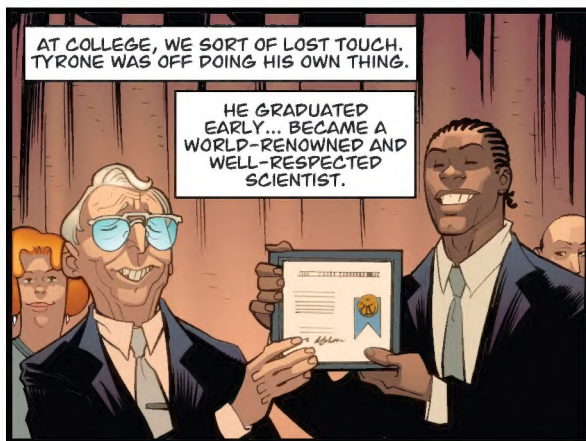
YOU GUYS HAVE NO IDEA HOW HARD IT WAS... GROWING UP IN TYRONE'S SHADOW.

HE WAS BRILLIANT... ALWAYS WAS. I DON'T DENY THAT.



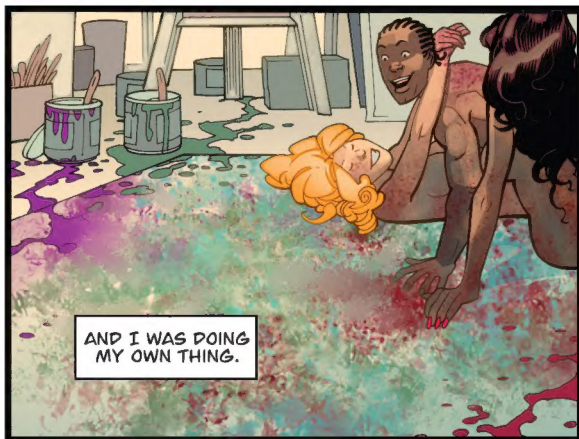
WE WERE DIFFERENT PEOPLE, HE AND I. TWINS, YES... BUT VASTLY DIFFERENT.

HE USED TO SAY HE WAS THE BUILDER AND I WAS THE DECORATOR... BUT I DON'T THINK HE MEANT IT TO SOUND SO CONDESCENDING.

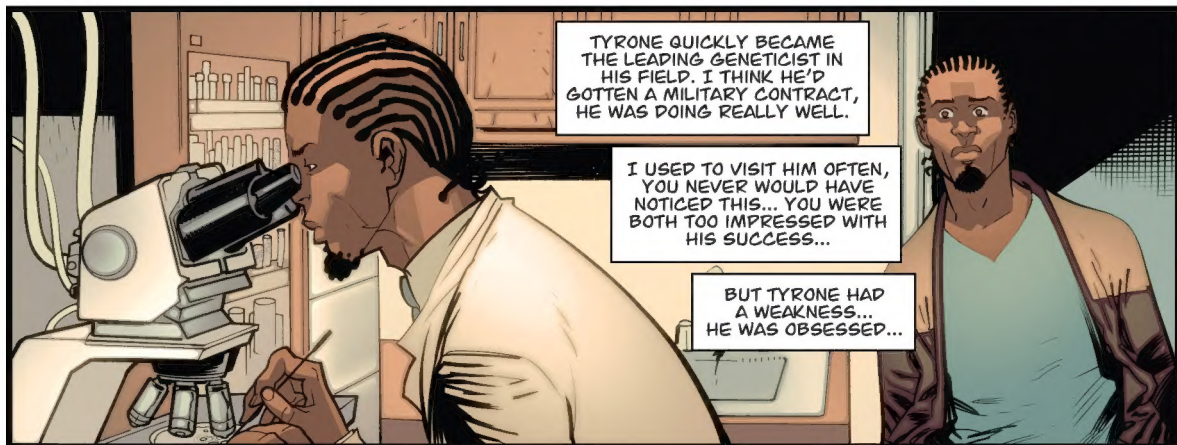


AT COLLEGE, WE SORT OF LOST TOUCH. TYRONE WAS OFF DOING HIS OWN THING.

HE GRADUATED EARLY... BECAME A WORLD-RENOUNDED AND WELL-RESPECTED SCIENTIST.



AND I WAS DOING MY OWN THING.



TYRONE QUICKLY BECAME THE LEADING GENETICIST IN HIS FIELD. I THINK HE'D GOTTEN A MILITARY CONTRACT, HE WAS DOING REALLY WELL.

I USED TO VISIT HIM OFTEN, YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE NOTICED THIS... YOU WERE BOTH TOO IMPRESSED WITH HIS SUCCESS...

BUT TYRONE HAD A WEAKNESS... HE WAS OBSESSED...



...WITH **SUPER POWERS.**

HE WAS SPENDING EVERY WAKING MOMENT STUDYING SUPER HEROES AND VILLAINS, TRYING TO DETERMINE THE SOURCE OF THEIR POWERS, SO THAT HE COULD **RECREATE THEM.**

I NEVER REALIZED HOW OBSESSED HE'D BECOME, HOW FAR HE WAS WILLING TO GO, OR HOW MUCH HE ALLOWED HIS QUEST TO CHANGE HIM.

UNTIL ONE NIGHT WHEN WE WERE HAVING DINNER TOGETHER AT HIS HOUSE... ALL HE COULD TALK ABOUT WAS HOW CLOSE HE'D GOTTEN.

THE LAST THING I REMEMBER FROM THAT NIGHT WAS HIM TELLING ME I WAS A BIG PART OF HIS PLAN...

...AND THEN FEELING A LITTLE WOZZY.

I AWOKE HOURS LATER, RESTRAINED AND MORE **SCARED** THAN I'D EVER BEEN IN MY LIFE.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO ME, WHO HAD DONE THIS TO ME, UNTIL I HEARD MY BROTHER'S VOICE.

HE SAID I'D NEVER REALLY DONE MUCH WITH MYSELF, AND THAT MY SACRIFICE WOULD BE A NOBLE ONE. HE REMARKED THAT IT WAS ALMOST AS IF I WAS **BORN FOR THIS PURPOSE...**

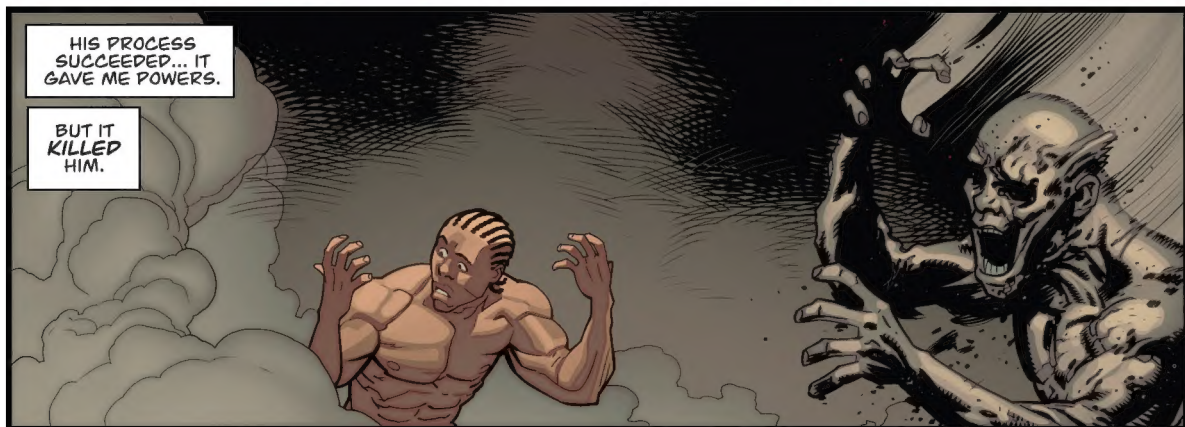
...THAT HE'D BEEN PROVIDED A PERFECT GENETIC DOUBLE TO TEST HIS PROCESS ON.

HE'D COME UP WITH A WAY TO GET POWERS... AND I WAS HIS **GUINEA PIG.**





IT DIDN'T WORK  
OUT AS PLANNED.



HIS PROCESS  
SUCCEEDED... IT  
GAVE ME POWERS.

BUT IT  
KILLED  
HIM.



I'D JUST LOST MY BROTHER,  
DESPITE WHAT HE'D DONE  
TO ME... I WAS DISTRAUGHT.

I DIDN'T KNOW  
WHAT TO DO.



HIS REMAINS WERE DESTROYED.  
I THOUGHT IF I TOLD ANYONE...  
THEY WOULDN'T **BELIEVE** ME.

I JUST...  
PRETENDED  
IT HADN'T  
HAPPENED.





MOM... DAD... YOU LOVED HIM SO MUCH. SO MUCH MORE THAN ME. I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO TELL YOU WHAT HE'D DONE.

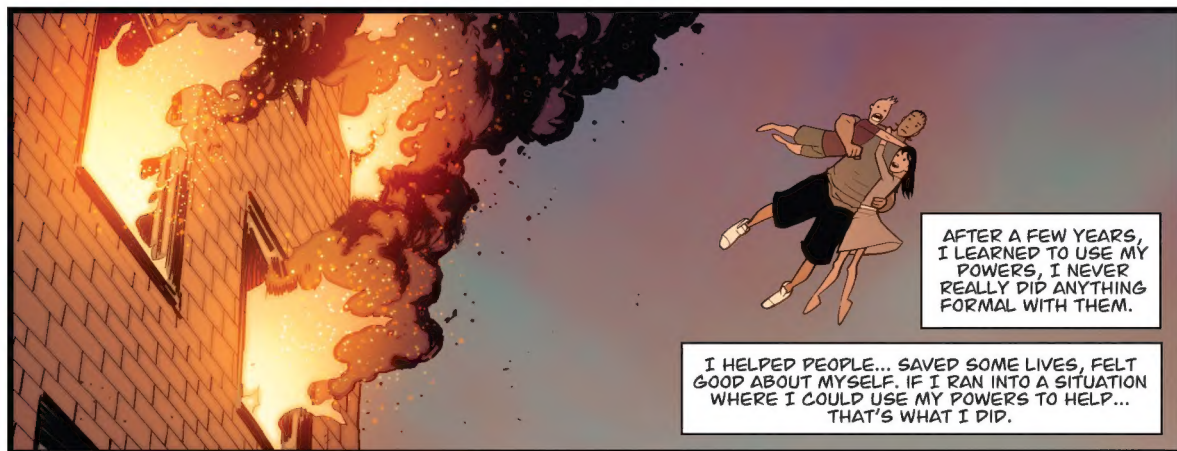
SO I PRETENDED TO BE HIM.

HE'D SPENT SO MUCH TIME AWAY FROM YOU, LOST IN WORK... THAT IT WASN'T HARD TO CONVINCE YOU.



I KNEW IT WASN'T RIGHT. I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT.

BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.



AFTER A FEW YEARS, I LEARNED TO USE MY POWERS, I NEVER REALLY DID ANYTHING FORMAL WITH THEM.

I HELPED PEOPLE... SAVED SOME LIVES, FELT GOOD ABOUT MYSELF. IF I RAN INTO A SITUATION WHERE I COULD USE MY POWERS TO HELP... THAT'S WHAT I DID.



IT WAS A LONG TIME BEFORE I BECAME BULLETPROOF.

BEFORE I REALIZED HOW MUCH GOOD I COULD DO WITH THESE POWERS I WAS GIVEN.





I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE BELIEVABLE IF I TOLD YOU TYRONE HAD BECOME BULLETPROOF.

IT WOULD ALSO GIVE YOU ANOTHER REASON TO THINK HE WAS ALWAYS BUSY, SO YOU DIDN'T SEE HIM MUCH.



I'VE LIVED TWO LIVES FOR SO LONG NOW. I'VE MADE MY ART, DONE MY THING, MET CARLA... SHE'S BEEN SO GOOD FOR ME.

I'VE LIVED FIRSTHAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOW YOU THINK OF ME, HOW YOU TREAT ME.



AND HOW YOU TREAT TYRONE.

THAT LOVE, THAT CARE... THE TIME WE SPENT TOGETHER WHEN YOU THOUGHT I WAS HIM.

IT WAS ALL I EVER WANTED.



I COULD NEVER BRING MYSELF TO TELL YOU... WHAT THE SON YOU LOVED HAD BECOME.

HOW HE'D KIDNAPPED ME, TRIED TO KILL ME, AND HAD BEEN KILLED IN THE PROCESS. I KNEW HOW MUCH HE MEANT TO YOU.

I'M SO SORRY.





YOU COULDN'T  
TELL ME  
BECAUSE IT'S  
ALL LIES!

IF TYRONE IS DEAD--  
YOU EXPECT ME TO  
BELIEVE IT WAS AN  
ACCIDENT--CAUSED  
BY HIM?!

YOU'VE  
ALWAYS BEEN  
JEALOUS OF HIM!  
YOU KILLED  
YOUR OWN  
BROTHER!



WHAT?!  
NO!

DAD,  
PLEASE--  
YOU HAVE TO  
BELIEVE ME.  
EVERYTHING  
I JUST TOLD  
YOU IS  
TRUE!

MOM?



TYRONE  
IS DEAD--  
AND YOU  
KILLED  
HIM!



DON'T SAY THAT.  
I LOVED TYRONE!  
I WOULD HAVE  
NEVER--

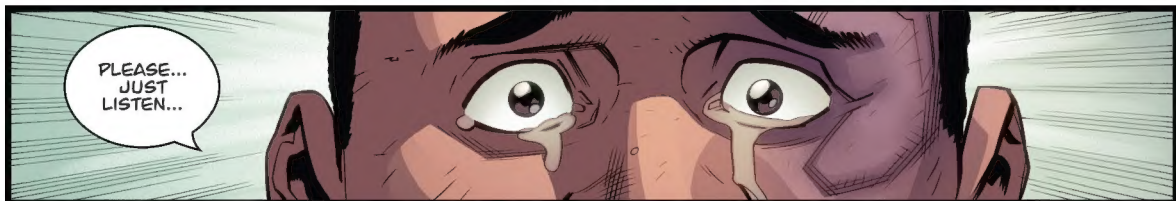
HE DID  
THIS TO ME,  
HE CAUSED  
THIS--ALL  
OF IT!

HE WAS...  
EVIL.



DON'T TALK ABOUT  
YOUR BROTHER THAT  
WAY! NOT AFTER  
WHAT YOU'VE  
DONE!

THIS IS  
KILLING YOUR  
MOTHER!  
JUST LOOK  
AT HER!



PLEASE...  
JUST  
LISTEN...



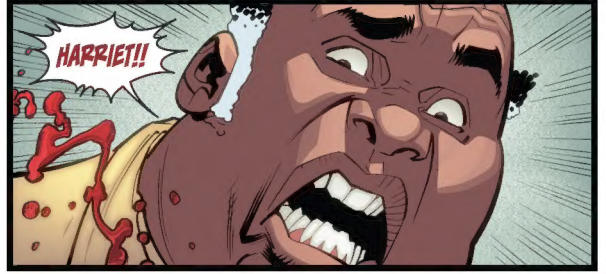
NO, YOU  
LISTEN  
TO ME!

WE'RE  
CALLING THE  
POLICE--RIGHT  
NOW! WE'RE  
GOING TO  
TELL THEM  
EVERYTHING!

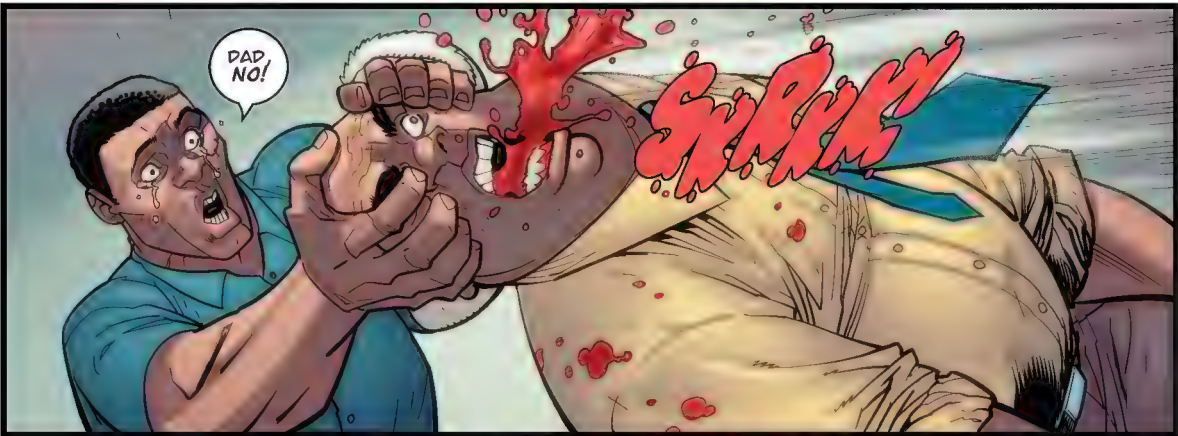
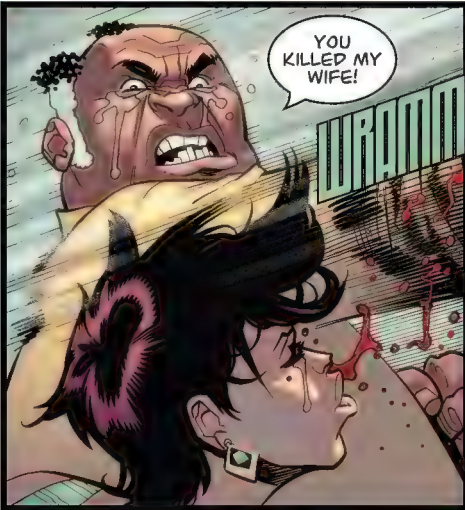
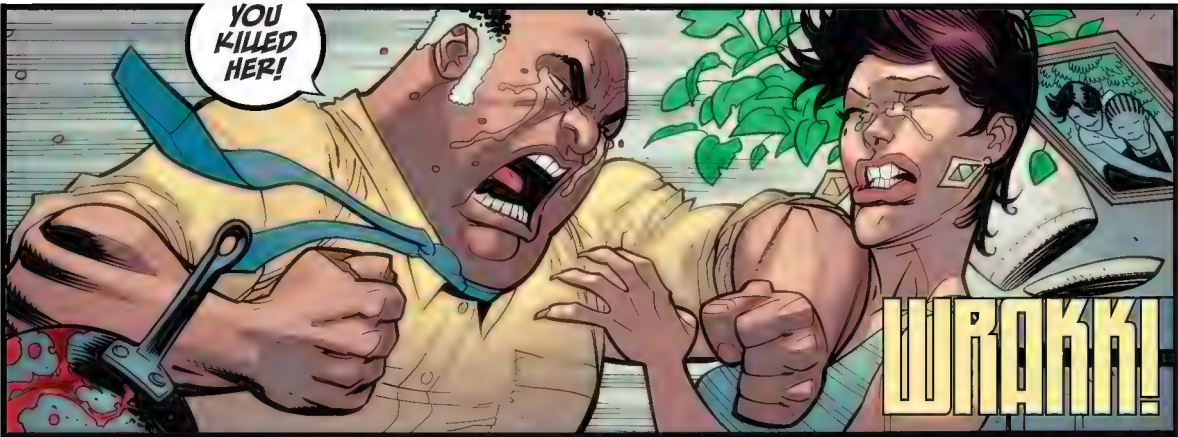
YOU'VE GOTTEN  
AWAY WITH THIS  
FOR TOO LONG,  
ZANPALE! YOU... YOU  
TOOK TYRONE FROM  
US--YOU TRICKED  
US...

WE'LL  
SEE YOU FRY  
FOR THIS! YOU  
DESERVE TO  
DIE FOR  
WHAT YOU--















HEAVY HANDED? JARRING? OVERLY DARK? HELL, OUT OF PLACE EVEN. ALL OF THE ABOVE. I COMPLETELY AGREE.

IT'S A LOT OF THINGS AT WORK REALLY. I **CREATED** THE BOOK, I **OWN** THE BOOK, I CAN DO WHAT I WANT, INCLUDING CRAZY THINGS THAT I'D NEVER BE ALLOWED TO DO ON A CORPORATE COMIC BOOK. THAT LEADS TO CRAZY THINGS SOMETIMES... IT MAKES ME WANT TO SPREAD MY WINGS FROM TIME TO TIME, SO TO SPEAK.

THE OTHER THING IS WE WERE RAMPING UP TO OUR ONE-HUNDRETH ISSUE. YOU GET TO THAT POINT AND YOU KIND OF WANT TO SHAKE THINGS UP... DO SOMETHING, I DON'T KNOW... **SHOCKING.**

DID I RUN THE RISK OF ALIENATING READERS? OF **COURSE.** THE ONLY THING YOU CAN DO IS TRY AND GET BACK TO THE LIGHT-HEARTED TONE OF THE BOOK AS **QUICKLY** AS POSSIBLE TO REMIND READERS THAT IT'S NOT AN OVERALL CHANGE, SOME KIND OF NEW STATUS QUO--IT WAS JUST AN, I DON'T KNOW...

**INTRIGUING INTERLUDE.**

I FIGURED IF I CONVINCED THEM OF THAT, I WOULDN'T LOSE ANY READERS.

Booth boy  
holds sharpies etc...  
EXHIBITOR

ZOMBIES SUCK  
Phillip Schaft  
Science dog Creator  
EXHIBITOR

SCIENCE DOG  
SCIENCE DOG  
SCIENCE DOG  
SCIENCE DOG

THE DEATH OF...

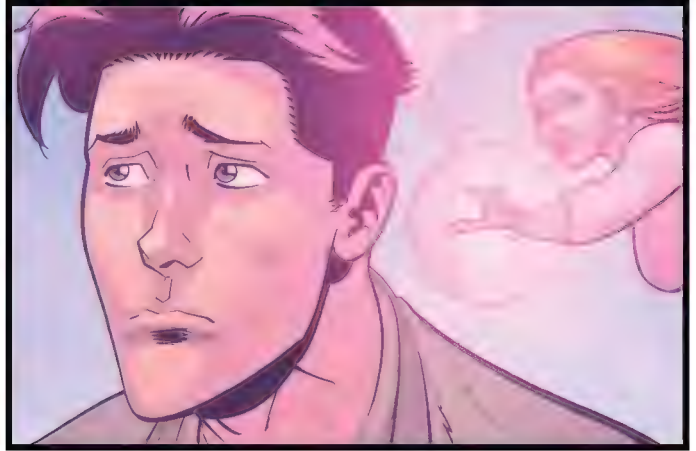
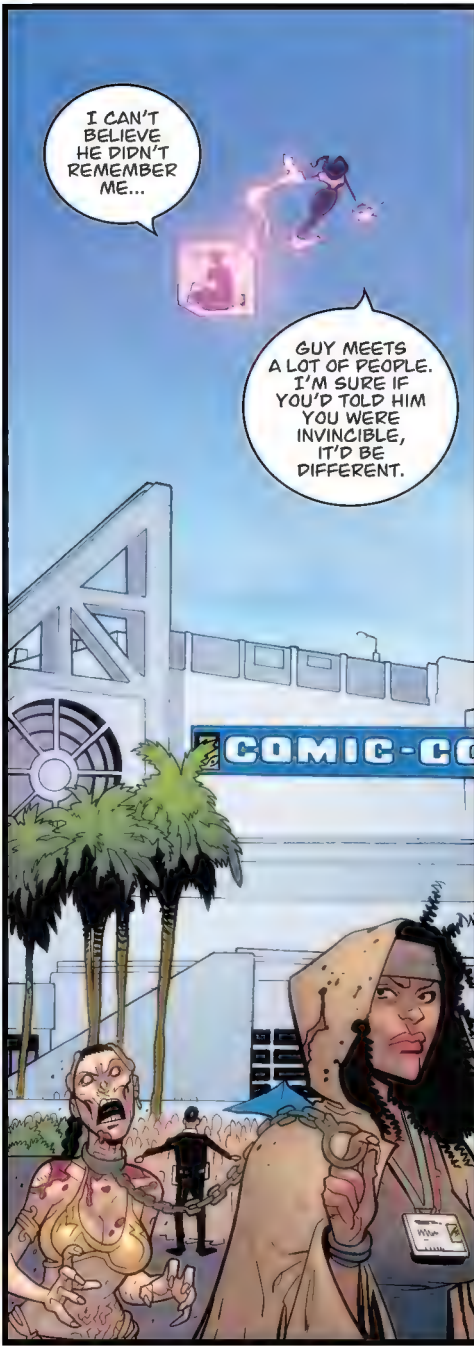




BUT HEY, WE RELEASED SCIENCE DOG ONE HUNDRED, AND IT BROKE ALL KINDS OF RECORDS. FOR AN INDEPENDENT COMIC THAT'S A PRETTY BIG DEAL. THERE AREN'T A LOT OF BOOKS THAT HIT THAT KIND OF NUMBER.

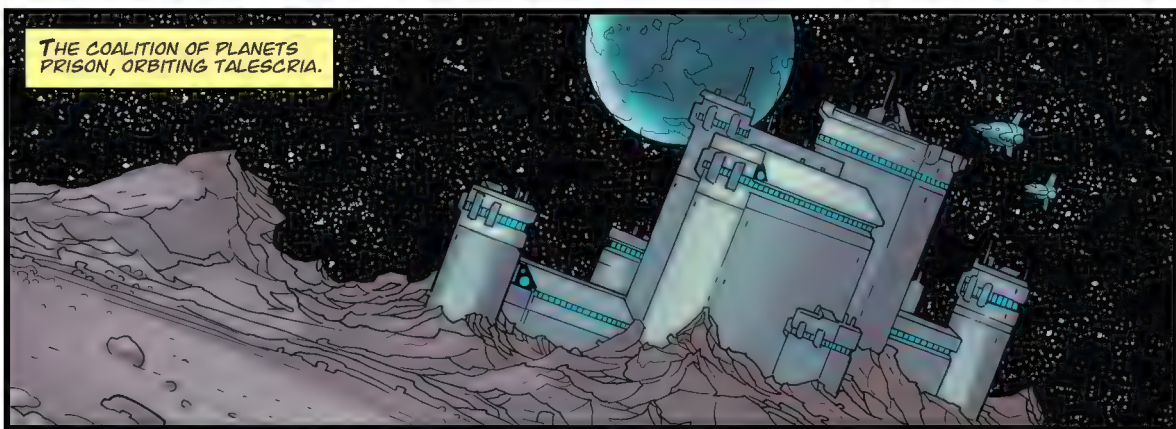








THE COALITION OF PLANETS  
PRISON, ORBITING TALESERIA.



IF MY SON  
IS DEAD I  
WILL FIND A  
WAY OUT OF  
HERE, AND I  
WILL KILL  
YOU.



THE PRESSURE OF TAKING OVER  
THE COALITION OF PLANETS WAS  
**IMMENSE**. I WAS BEING PUSHED  
IN ALL DIRECTIONS AND WHEN A  
SOLUTION PRESENTED  
ITSELF, I ACTED.

AND I  
WAS MISTAKEN.  
THANKFULLY, YOUR  
SON WAS ABLE TO  
PREVENT MY FOLLY--  
WHAT WOULD HAVE  
BEEN MY  
**GREATEST**  
MISTAKE.

I'M  
TRULY  
SORRY.

ALL  
CHARGES  
ARE BEING  
DROPPED. YOU  
ARE BEING  
RELEASED.











HE'S A  
GOOD KID,  
THAT ONE.  
DON'T HOLD  
THIS  
AGAINST  
HIM.

OF COURSE NOT. HE  
STANDS UP FOR HIS  
BELIEFS, THAT'S  
SOMETHING I'M PROUD  
TO SEE IN BOTH OF  
MY SONS.



I REALLY NEED TO  
TALK TO YOU ABOUT  
THE VILTRUMITE  
SITUATION ON  
EARTH.

I DON'T  
TRUST  
THEM...



I DON'T KNOW THAT  
I REALLY DO EITHER,  
BUT DO YOU HAVE  
ANY SPECIFIC  
REASON?



LET'S JUST SAY I DON'T  
THINK EVERYTHING IS  
QUITE WHAT IT SEEMS  
WHEN IT COMES  
TO THEM.

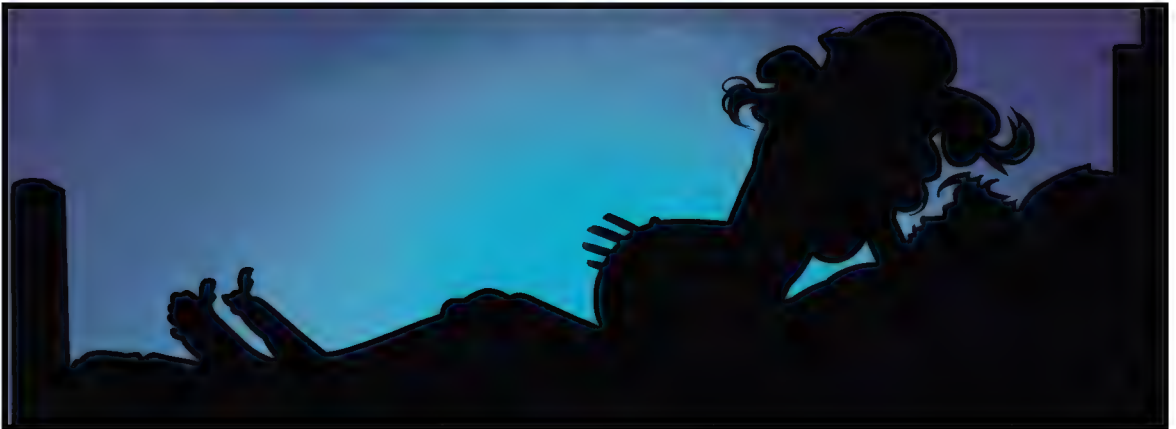


IF YOU'RE  
WILLING, I  
HAVE A  
MISSION FOR  
YOU...

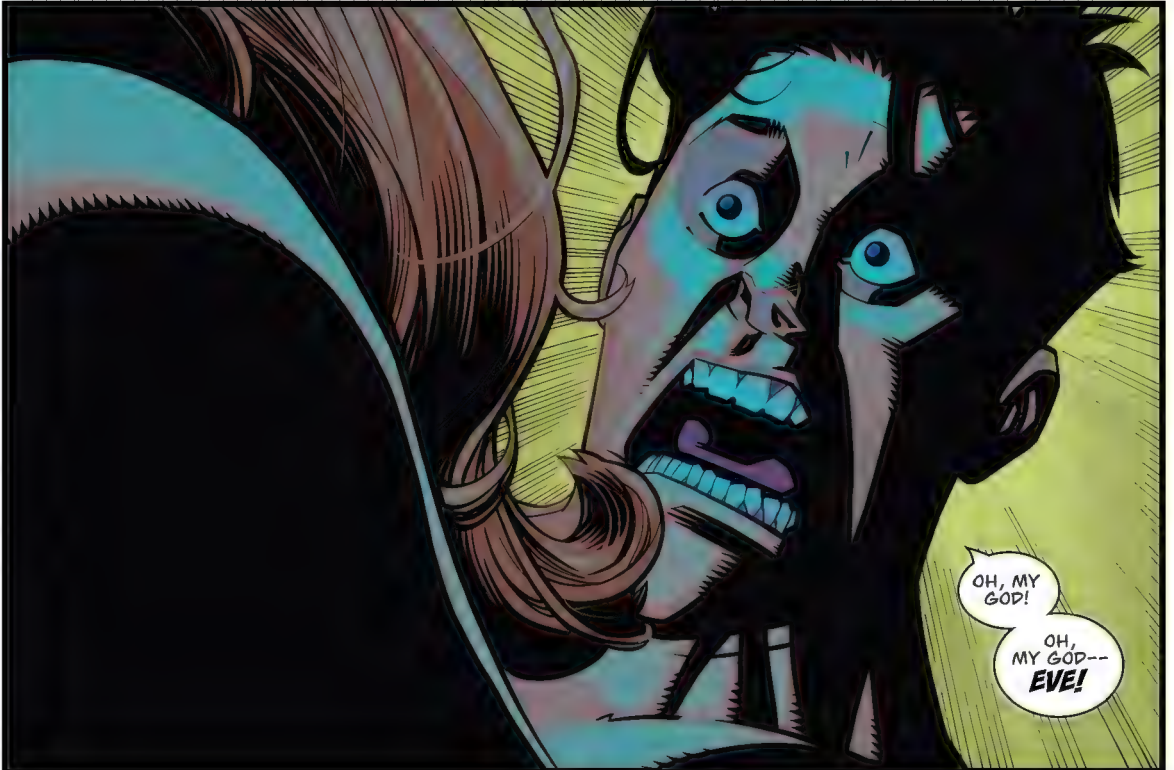
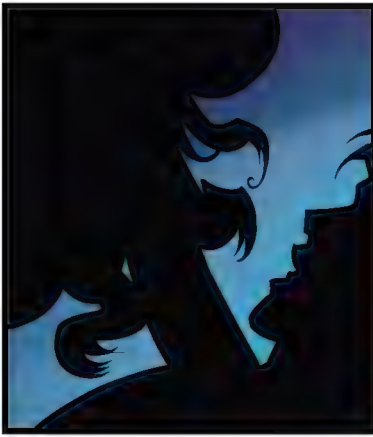
















MY  
POWERS  
ARE  
BACK,  
BABY!



WRITE US @

INVINCIBLE@SKYBOUND.COM

# PENVINCIBLE

## Invincibles!

Sean here. It was great to meet a bunch of you at NYCC. There was even a sweet couple dressed as Invincible and Atom Eve roaming the floor. Ryan held down Artists' Alley with SUPER DINOSAUR's Jason Howard, turned out sketches and kissed babies. Don't wear that man down! We still got two more issues before #100. If you came to the Skybound panel, we even showed Ryan's wraparound cover to that landmark issue as well as the first of our variants by Bryan Hitch. Who else is handling variants? How about Cory Walker, Mark Silvestri, Charlie Adlard and Arthur Adams?

*Sounds like that issue's going to be pretty rocking! Maybe I should start writing it?! Nah... I think I'll answer some letters instead... let's go!*

Dear Penvincibles,

While I'm not normally inclined toward cerebral chapters in character-driven stories, I have to say that Issue 95 stands above the rule. With the recent printing gaffe (it was the printers, right?) it's become almost unbearable to wait for my fix of INVINCIBLE - and with this arc's diversion from centering around Mark, it's been even harder. I think 95 is where we see the grace and potency of this arc. Also, not to sound base, but I really enjoyed the little twist of Amanda's sexuality. Her tryst was quite the contrast in the setting of ages-long warfare, civil strife and suspension from her comfort-zone. It was vulnerable and meaningful and not exploitative - and in today's media that counts with me.

As a last note about 95, I'd like to say you timed the change-over between artists perfectly. While I enjoy both Cory Walker and Ryan Ottley, the change from the former to the latter had a real snap to it.

As for the second reason I'm writing: how's Mark doing? With some upcoming promo art on the web, I have officially begun to worry about our future with Mark Grayson. It's okay to divert briefly from the Viltrumite drama, as well as his shaken relationship with Samantha, but don't hold out too long on us, okay? I'm sure he's the heir of their emperor, but I'm not so sure this is something he cares about. Not as much as his firecracker of a girlfriend anyway. Usually I think the "power loss" card plays with some eye-rolling in stories, but I'm eager to see how this one plays out. The suspense is maddening.

So, while I'm also a fan of THE WALKING DEAD, and am familiar with Kirkman's writing style, I feel compelled to beg here. Please don't take Samantha and Mark apart! I know "Everyone Dies" in #100 (or something to that effect), but I really like these two as a couple. They're both believable together, and they aren't impervious to the usual relationship problems. Her teeny backstory and forward-minded ventures are paramount to Mark's character.

Anyway thanks for reading. You guys rock.

Adam H.

We love to keep readers like you off-balance, but we also know when to throw you a treat. These past two issues have given you plenty of Samantha and Mark time—and how about Mark getting his powers back? You ever seen something like that before?!

*Yeah, it'd be kind of cruel to keep Mark and Eve (Or Samantha if you want to use her first name) out of the picture for so long only to kill one or both of them.... wouldn't it?*

Kirkman, I'm not normally one to write in to a letter column for a comic just to compliment, but INVINCIBLE #95 was incredible and undoubtedly my favourite issue to date! I've long appreciated Robot and Monstergirl, but this issue was so tragically perfect I want to read it over and over. Cory Walker's art was stunning and combined with your writing I could go on for ages about this storyline and how well crafted you made the relationship between Rex and Amanda. Please tell me we have much more to see between these two and perhaps a future spin-off series or mini.

Mathias Lewis  
Oceanside, Ca

You can catch a whole other side of Robot and Monster Girl in the pages of GUARDING THE GLOBE monthly. As for a spin-off or mini, that would be cool, huh?

Hmmm...

Robert (and Sean),

Contrary to popular belief, I do not write..many..negative letters! Well, errrr, except maybe this one.

Uh oh...

Is it really INVINCIBLE #95 already? Wow--what a joke. I've seen better character development in the presidential race; not saying much. This issue, let's see, we had the entire thing--99% anyway--dedicated to things that happened between issues years ago; lots and lots of years ago, in a way. Not only did I find the whole thing specious, excruciating, repetitive and tiresome, but...it was boring. I found the pages, all two or three of them, drawn by Ryan a lot easier to read than the ones by Cory...I don't even know why.

*Because you suck? ;-)*

I'll also tell you that this was a skim-read for me; you know, like when you're so bored that you skip ahead, oh, 4 or 5, or...20 pages? This is not THE WALKING DEAD, and I was wrong years ago when I predicted something like that 'VINCE would outsell or overtake TWD in the long-run. Say, uh, what name are we going with for Robot and Monster Girl's son? Monster Boy...?

*I find it hard to take your criticism seriously when you freely admit that you didn't even READ the issue. I mean, if it bored you to the point that you couldn't continue, I understand... but eh... I love you, Shaw... keep it up!*

Meanwhile, on the interesting side of things, Dancer--another Image effort--had a fine and even inspiring issue this last week or so!! I don't know if that series is over or not, but the big winner in the end: former cover artist, Nic Klein! Big hand for Nic, everybody. You know I wouldn't lie to you; this is how I really feel about "The Best Superhero Comic Book In The Universe"! A title which may still be ironically true...since we're talking about superheroes in the Image universe; they're few and far between, these days. Did I mention that GUARDING THE GLOBE is only like my favorite new series...? I'd continue to work on the character development, really. And, who knows--maybe next issue one of the Invincibles will actually show up for more than a panel!

Andrew J. Shaw



Nic Klein IS very good.

*And Dancer is amazing. It's hard to argue with you when you do appear to have very good taste. Okay... that's it. I quit!*

---

Mr. Kirkman,

In the last two of my five years in Louisville, KY, I have been voraciously reading every graphic novel/trade paperback comic the local library has to offer. For ten years before that I lived in Lexington, KY, and could be considered nothing more than a very casual Marvel fan. I would hear tales of some guy named Robert Kirkman hanging out at A+ Comics and signing anything just because he is so swell. I didn't know/care then. At that point I had major contentions with parting with my money on comics. I had glanced at your work (followed Marvel Zombies even) it left an impression, but it wasn't until (relatively) recently with my newfound library comics' goldmine discovery did I come to the conclusion that you and Grant Morrison are my favorite writers. I even shelled out my hard-earned dough for the first time to buy INVINCIBLE #84 and #85. You hooked me, count me in. I opened a folder (in Louisville; A+ is moving locations, by the way) and look forward to every Wednesday not only for live jazz at the Nachbar, but to see how more stories progress.

With my secret origin out of the way, I just wanted to ask you something that has befuddled my mind for a while. I thought I missed something, but couldn't find anything about it. When Invincible battles Conquest during the Viltrumite War, he concluded that Conquest returned with the aid of Cecil. The obviously perturbed Mark (while in space) vows to 'have words' with Cecil. He returns to Earth and....was that ever addressed?

That was at the beginning of the War. By the end Mark had considerable other things to worry about, and Cecil and the Guardians of the Globe had protected Earth well with Invincible off-planet.

*They've talked quite a bit since...*

Pardon me if this question is old-hat. But thank you for all of your hard work and continued progression to a valuable art form. I hope I may actually have the pleasure of running into you someday, maybe I'll have some comics of my own to share with you.

Keep inspiring,  
Jake Reber

---

Dear Kirkman, Sina, Ottley, Walker, Rathburn, Rauch and Wooton (Holy Christ is this long... Hehe! Sina is the only one I didn't write the last name!)

*I'm going to assume you typed "Sina" because you didn't want to type "Mackiewicz."*

So to begin with I'm gonna say how I discovered INVINCIBLE. I'm French and German, living in France and Germany (cool huh?) and here in France/Germany comics aren't the most famous thing. I discovered your work by seeing The Walking Dead TV Show after my friend David said to me it would be fucking awesome. So I begun to see it with him... and in one night I had already seen all of season 1 and the pilot of 2. That was the point where I hadn't any social life anymore. I finished the TV show, got all issues of TWD and began reading them (I'm at issue 97 so you should get a mail from me very soon for issue 100.). When I was reading TWD, I said to myself there couldn't be only this comic from the genius Kirkman (Don't get used to the compliments, the criticism will come...) and there I was reading INVINCIBLE.

Let's begin with what I find awesome in this book: You find really original characters and bring them in stories that just are insane. How you brought Invincible to grow up from issue 1 to 93 is amazing. I remember when Invincible was getting crazy because Cecil was working with that guy who made the Reanimen... and now he's working with Dinosaurius, a mad creature who blew up Las Vegas. I also love how in this last 2 issues you brought Cory Walker back for the story in the Flaxan Dimension, because Monster Girl is maybe my favorite character in this series. When I first saw her in issue 9, I just thought how could Kirkman even have the idea of her. One last thing,

loved the return of the British Guy! At least when you do subplots you don't drop them forever. If "forever" is more than 76 issues... And that Demon Detective never showed up again, so forget what I said. Yeah... That's pretty much it for the positive things... Anyway you prefer bad things in the letters column so here it is.

First, remember when in the beginning issues (around 10 or so) there where 2 pages more of story, 3 to 4 pages letters, lots of pin-ups and some little stories from Benito & Nate... What happened? Okay, not long ago you did TECH JACKET back-ups and I get it, you've got to respect the schedule now. (Which by the way wasn't really that 'til Sina came : INVINCIBLE began before TWD and now 'Vinci 93 / TWD 100. What the hell?) An issue every 3 weeks. You promised, now you do it.

How about 4 issues in 3 months? 100 will come out in time for its 10th anniversary!

*Yeah, TWD did start six months ahead of INVINCIBLE, so technically INVINCIBLE should be at issue 108 by now... but y'know what, keeping a schedule for 10 years is HARD and getting 100 issues out in ten years, I think... is pretty great when you look around at all the other creator-owned series that have been around longer and having reached that landmark issue.*

---

And here comes what I'm really disappointed with in your book. The first villain we ever saw was Titan and when he took the place of Machine Head I thought he would be the main villain or that he would be very important, but finally nothing... Even Magmaniac and Tether Tyrant came back in the last issues...

Some questions to end :

1) When will Titan come back?

Before Battle Beast, but after Angstrom Levy.

*Or maybe he'll NEVER come back! Ha! We'll see everyone again eventually.*

2) When the Flaxans come over from their dimension, does it work the same way as how Levy did it? I find it weird that when the Flaxans are going in other dimension there are monsters (like you showed in the Rex/Monster Girl flashback) and Levy only humans (or Viltrumtes...).

Flaxans go from dimension to dimension. Angstrom Levy travels parallel timelines... which in the context of INVINCIBLE... I'm saying are different things. There is no EARTH in the Flaxan dimension... and the life forms are different. Does that make sense at all?

3) I didn't have a 3, but just having 2 questions is kind of lame. So... Sina, beside being an editor are you a writer or an artist? (Nice touch to get printed see!)

*Sina doesn't live here anymore, but I know him well enough to say he's a writer and an artist. And hey, Image just published NOT BY BAG, Sina's first OGN. He'd love for you to buy one!*

So I did everything to get printed, hope I'll make it and just to make sure you read this, I'll try something: answer to my mail with "Sina n'est pas une personne particulièrement intelligente." At last sorry for my bad English and see you next month!

Thibault Nagel

---

Be back in three short weeks for INVINCIBLE #98: THE DEATH OF EVERYONE PART ONE!!! Who lives? No one! Who dies? Everyone! What kills them? Deadlines!

-Sean Mackiewicz

*Ugh... speaking of deadlines... back to work...*

*See you all very soon!!*

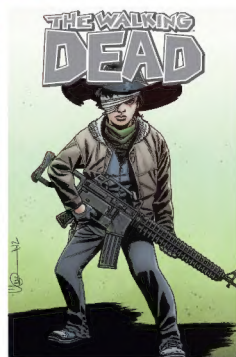
-Robert Kirkman



# DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE!



**THIEF OF  
THIEVES #10**  
ON SALE NOW



**THE WALKING  
DEAD #104**  
ON SALE NOW



**SAGA #7**  
ON SALE NOW

**INVINCIBLE #98**  
ON SALE DECEMBER 2012





# THE DEATH OF EVERYONE



SKYBOUND

**INVINCIBLE #98-100**



# Question of the Month

## "If you were stranded on an island that had formed in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, what three items would you want with you? And one of them has to be a comic."

"Stranded on an island in the middle of a garbage patch, I'd probably need to have my laptop and a can of shark repellent. With that much pollution, I'm not convinced that sharks won't sprout legs and come ashore. If I could only have one comic, it would, hands down, be *Cliff's They Found The Car*. It's the perfect comic in every way."  
Ed Brisson  
@edbrisson

"Tim Seely's and Mike Norton's *Revival*—because it's freaking awesome, duh! iPad with AGITE (to DL more comics and upload my own of course) Endless supply of Frosties Flakes—a man has got to eat—Tony keeps me company late at night."  
Jean-Paul Bonjour  
@JPAN1501

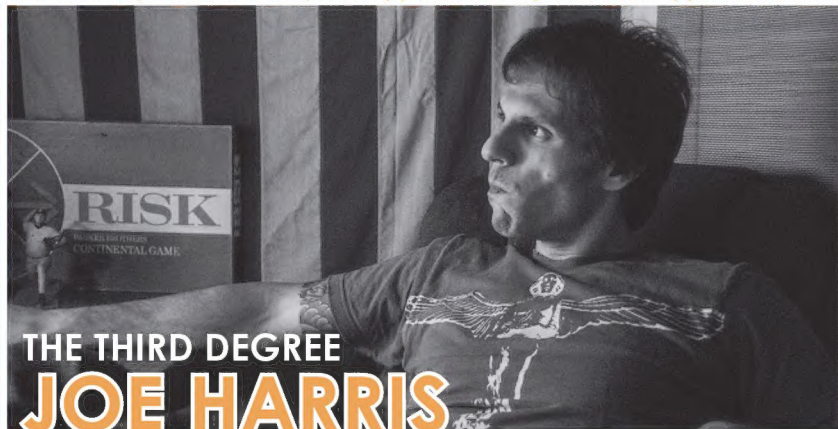
"All my issues of *Saga*, *Manhattan Projects* and *Debris*—and I would not need bags to keep them pristine, since well..."  
Tim Daniel  
@timdaniel

"Water, a Swiss Army knife, and a comic book called *How To Make a Boat out of Garbage*."  
Jonathan Luna  
@jonathanluna

# NOVEMBER 2012

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## THE THIRD DEGREE JOE HARRIS

Joe Harris is the acclaimed writer of numerous comics, graphic novels and movies mixing horror with tales of super-heroes and the supernatural. Joe launched the Spider-Man spinoff series, *Slingers*, and wrote myriad other titles including *Bishop: The Last X-Man*. He recently begun writing the monthly *Fury of Firestorm* series for DC Comics. His supernatural title, *Ghost Project*, was published by Oni Press. He also conceived and co-wrote the screenplay for the hit Sony Pictures film, *Darkness Falls* and the politically-themed slasher movie and Fox release, *The Trippler*.

### What are you working on right now?

Right now, I'm finishing up a run on *Firestorm* for DC Comics and getting ready to launch *Great Pacific* at Image. I'm also putting the finishing touches on a new graphic novel coming from Oni Press in 2013.

### What's the best part of your job?

The steady rain of riches and glory. And not having to wear clothes to work in the morning as my home office is a "no jacket required" zone, among other articles.

### What's the worst part of your job?

Knowing that the previous answer is a lie. The riches and glory, I mean. The "clothing optional" nature of the home office is verifiable truth.

### How did you first discover comics?

Wow, there were a few different childhood events that stand out, but I think my first exposure to comics happened when my mom would take me to Stride Rite shoes to buy Zips sneakers a couple times a year and the store would give away free Archie Comics to the kids. I was maybe four years old. A few years later, I recall being chased out of a flea market vendor's shop because I'd discovered the "X-rated" comics but not the "no minors allowed" sign. Sometime after that, it was on to superheroes and G.I. Joe.

### If you weren't working in comics, what would you be doing?

Making more movies, I'd hope. But probably out carousing and getting into trouble I can't afford.

### What's the best thing a fan has ever said to you?

"I bought two copies!" is always nice to hear. I'm also absolutely tickled when someone brings up my first go-round in this industry. I hardly remember writing stuff like *Slingers*, to be honest. But it's cool when someone makes a point to tell me they read and liked stuff of mine when we were both much younger.

### Who is the biggest influence on your work?

Overall, I'd say it's a mix of Richard Matheson and Rod Serling. Along with Bob Dylan, whose early ballads are a staggering achievement in storytelling, and John Carpenter. Eclectic list, I know. So far as comics specifically, Alan Moore and Frank Miller made me want to do this. Neil Gaiman. And J.M. DeMatteis, whose books just mesmerized me as a kid.

### What is the single work of which you're most proud?

It's got to be *GREAT PACIFIC*. I've never written anything like this before.

### Own up to one of your guilty pleasures.

I am a huge Phish fan, dating back to my teenage years. My iTunes library has about three hundred live shows in it.

### What was the last comic book you bought?

I just picked up the last couple issues of *SAGA*.

If you could be someone else for a day, who would it be?  
Mick Jagger circa 1969-1975. Or all of Motley Crüe in the 1980s.

### Pick three things you couldn't live without.

My 1978 Martin D-28 guitar, my iPad, and the New York Yankees.

### What's the strangest thing you have in your house?

If I told you we could both end up in jail. But it definitely does not involve human trafficking.

### What makes you laugh?

Cheech and Chong movies, along with the tragically comedic stylings of the Bush Administration.

### What is one of your favorite places?

Peter Luger Steakhouse in Brooklyn. I almost said Yankee Stadium. But the new house, while staggeringly cathedral-esque and cool, can't replace my memories of kicking around the old place that was recently torn down.

### What music are you listening to these days?

I've been combing through the newly remastered Pink Floyd "Immersion" boxed set. Also, the Rolling Stones have been releasing a series of live shows as part of their "Bootleg" series that are great, especially "L.A. Friday, 1975". Looking forward to the new Tom Yorke album with Flea. I'm a huge Radiohead fan and the solo "Atoms For Peace" tour was awesome.

### What is your favorite film of all time?

I can't just name one. Off the top of my head, Kurosawa's *The Seven Samurai*, Cornel Wilde's *The Naked Prey*, the first Orson film and *Apocalypse Now*. I could easily have said *The Empire Strikes Back* and/or *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. And I have a deep, meaningful love for *Rocky II*. This list will change an hour from now though.

### Who is your best friend?

A few different people share those duties. My childhood friend, Ryan and I used to play in bands together and still commiserate over matters both artistic and the more mundane life-type stuff. I'm also close to artist Adam Pollina, who comics fans might remember. He ushered me into this industry and we've been friends and collaborators for a long, long time now. And my brother, Eddie, whom I can always seem to count on in the ways that matter most.

### What is the best advice you've ever received?

When I was sixteen and took my road test, I was so worried I failed. But when it was done and I pulled over, the evaluator guy signed my paperwork, handed it to me and said, "This is your driver license, Joe. Don't take shit from anybody."

### When was the last time you were truly frightened?

Watching the GOP debates and primary battle. I'm still curled in a ball over it.

### Name someone you really admire.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

### What would you like to see happen in comics in the next 12 months?

Better sales numbers, increased readership and more original books from creators we admire. If my books fit within this magical idealism and I benefited from the wellspring, all the better. But either way...

## CLONE #1



From ROBERT KIRKMAN's Skybound imprint, comes a sci-fi story like you've never seen before! Dr. Luke Taylor's perfect life comes to a dramatic halt when an identical, blonded version of himself arrives at his doorstep with news that he is one of many clones... and they're all after his pregnant wife and their unborn child!

## GREAT PACIFIC #1



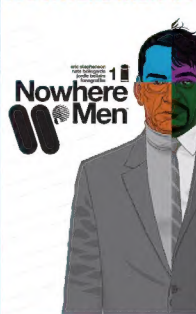
Class Worthington dreams of big things, solving bigger problems, and making his mark on the world. Only one takes the twenty-one-year-old heir to one of the biggest of fortunes in history very seriously. That is, until he turns his back on his cushy life of wealth and prestige, and seeks to solve an environmental disaster twice the size of his native Texas known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. The epic sci-fi adventure and survival tale begins!

## COMEBACK #1 (of 5)



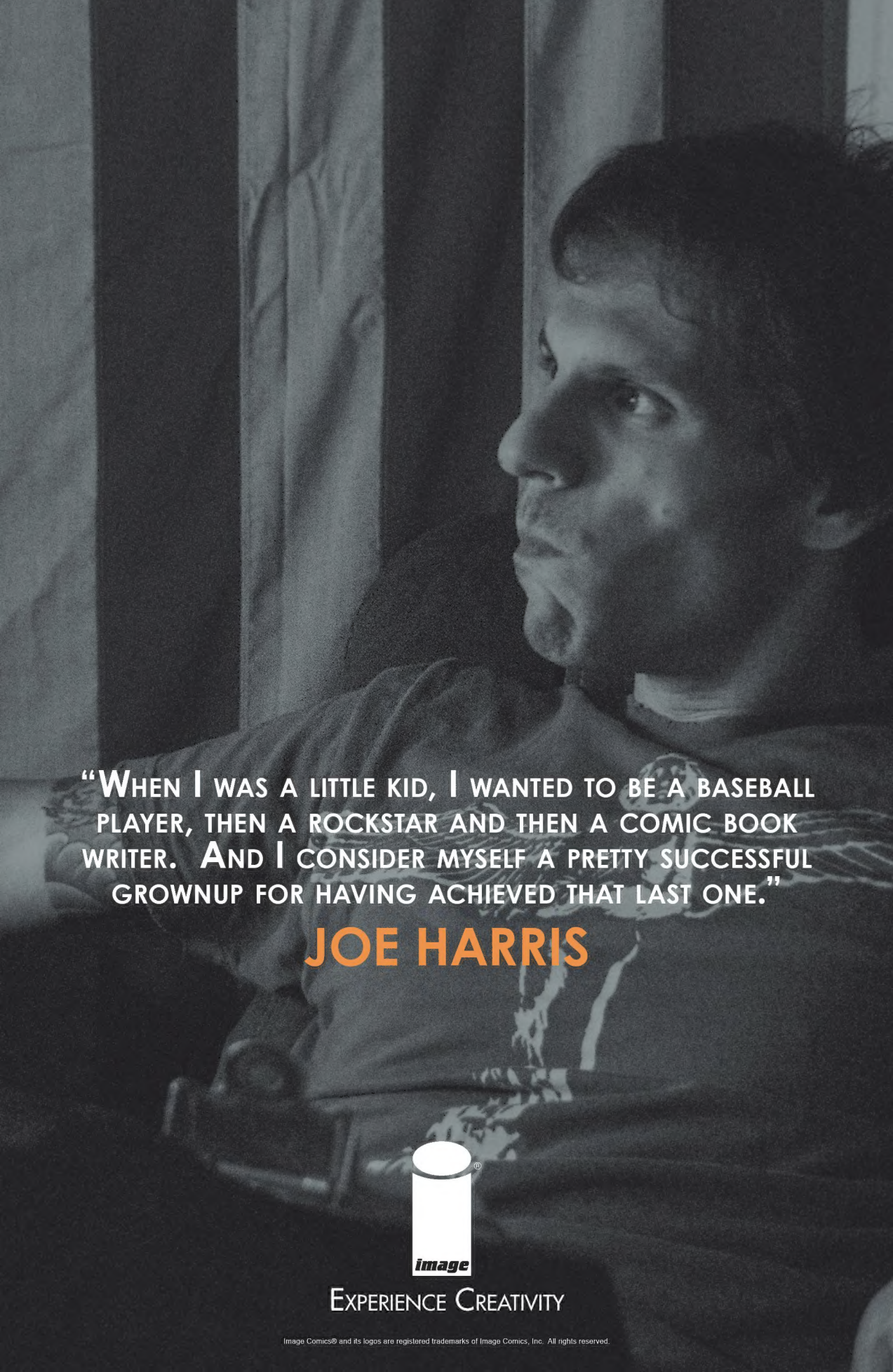
Reconnect is more than a company—it's an opportunity for good. Reconnect can reverse tragedy by sending agents into the past to rescue your mother, your wife, your brother or father or child moments before their untimely death. Mark is one of these agents. He brings the rescued from the past to the present, to a blessed reunion with their loved ones. He saves lives... or does he?

## NOWHERE MEN #1



"SCIENCE IS THE NEW ROCK 'N' ROLL." So said Hade Ellis. Simon Grimshaw, Emerson Strange and Thomas Walker are at the dawn of a new age of enlightenment that ushered in a boom in scientific advancement. As the research firm grows, World Corp., they become the most celebrated scientists of all time. They changed the world—and we loved them for it. But where did it all go wrong? And when progress is made at any and all cost, who ultimately pays the price?



A black and white photograph of Joe Harris, a man with dark hair, looking out of a window. The window has vertical blinds, and the light from the window illuminates his face and the side of his head. He is wearing a dark t-shirt with a graphic design.

**"WHEN I WAS A LITTLE KID, I WANTED TO BE A BASEBALL  
PLAYER, THEN A ROCKSTAR AND THEN A COMIC BOOK  
WRITER. AND I CONSIDER MYSELF A PRETTY SUCCESSFUL  
GROWNUP FOR HAVING ACHIEVED THAT LAST ONE."**

**JOE HARRIS**



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